

WASHINGTON

13 charged in election scheme

Special counsel accuses Russians of trying to disrupt 2016 presidential campaign, boost Donald Trump's run

By Eric Tucker
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » In an extraordinary indictment, the U.S. special counsel accused 13 Russians Friday of an elaborate plot to disrupt the 2016 presidential election, charging them with running a huge but hidden social media trolling campaign aimed in part at helping Republican Donald Trump defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton.

The federal indictment, brought by special counsel Rob-

ert Mueller, represents the most detailed allegations to date of illegal Russian meddling during the campaign that sent Trump to the White House. It also marks the first criminal charges against Russians believed to have secretly worked to influence the outcome.

The Russian organization was funded by Yevgeny Prigozhin, the indictment says. He is a wealthy St. Petersburg businessman with ties to the Russian government and President Vladimir Putin.

Trump quickly claimed vindication Friday, noting in a tweet

that the alleged interference efforts began in 2014 — “long before I announced that I would run for President.”

“The results of the election were not impacted. The Trump campaign did nothing wrong — no collusion!” he tweeted.

But the indictment does not resolve the collusion question at the heart of the continuing Mueller probe, which before Friday had produced charges against four Trump associates. U.S. intelligence agencies have previously said the Russian government interfered to benefit Trump, including by orchestrating the hacking of Democratic emails, and Mueller

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JACQUELYN MARTIN — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein speaks Friday at a news conference to announce the indictments against 13 Russian nationals.

RIALTO

‘HORRIFIC’ CRASH KILLS AT LEAST 5 ON FREEWAY



PHOTOS BY TERRY PIERSON — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Emergency personnel and CHP officials investigate the scene of a fatal accident on the eastbound I-10 near the Riverside Avenue on-ramp Friday in Rialto. At least five people were killed in the crash, which closed all lanes of the freeway for several hours.

A big rig traveling west crashes through a center divider, collides head-on with several vehicles and catches fire; all lanes of I-10 are shut down for several hours

By Beatriz E. Valenzuela
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At least five people, including a motorcyclist, died Friday in a crash that shut down all lanes of I-10 for several hours at the Riverside Avenue off-ramp in Rialto after a semi truck crashed through the center divider and caught fire, authorities said.

“It’s one of the most horrific collisions I’ve seen in my 10-year career,” said Steve Carapia, a California Highway Patrol spokesman.

Just before 1 p.m., a big rig was traveling west when, for unknown reasons, it crashed into the center divider, entered the eastbound lanes and struck several vehicles head-on, according to CHP Officer Brian Alvarez.



San Bernardino County firefighters and tow truck drivers work to remove a six-axle cement truck from atop several vehicles.

The truck came to rest atop multiple vehicles, and then some caught fire, Alvarez said. At least two big rigs and three

passenger vehicles were also involved, he said.

Albert Fuentes, 26, works at a junkyard near the freeway

and said he heard two “boom” sounds when the accident happened. “Then you see all this smoke,” he said.

SigAlerts posted after the crash announced the closure of eastbound lanes for eight to 10 hours and westbound lanes for three hours. Two westbound lanes were reopened by 5 p.m.

“We want to be methodical and have enough time to investigate this accident,” Carapia said of shutting down the freeway.

Alvarez asked motorists to take either the 60 to the south or I-210 to the north as alternate routes.

Christian Andujo was one of several drivers on Slover Avenue near the Riverside Avenue interchange unaware of the fatal crash.

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FLORIDA SHOOTING

FBI failed to look into tip on suspect

Agency told last month student had access to guns and might be plotting school attack

By Kelli Kennedy, Curt Anderson and Tamara Lush
The Associated Press

PARKLAND, FLA. » The FBI received a tip last month that the suspect in the Florida school shooting had a “desire to kill” and access to guns and could be plotting an attack, but agents failed to investigate, the agency said Friday. Florida Gov. Rick Scott called for the FBI’s director to resign because of the missteps.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said the shooting that killed 17 people Wednesday was a “tragic consequence” of the FBI’s failure and ordered a review of the Justice Department’s processes. He said it’s now clear that the nation’s premier law enforce-

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TORTURE CASE

D.A. says he will call siblings to witness stand

By Brian Rokos
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Riverside County District Attorney Mike Hestrin said Friday that he plans to put some of the 13 children of Perris torture defendants David and Louise Turpin on the witness stand to testify against their parents if the case goes to trial.

Hestrin spoke Friday at Good Morning Corona, a Chamber of Commerce event at Eagle Glen Golf Club. Hestrin talked about the role of victim advocates, discussed the need for lessening the trauma for children who must testify and said he was determined to prevent the trial from being moved out of the county.

Afterward, he answered questions from a reporter about the Turpin case.

CASE » PAGE 12

Pyeongchang Winter Olympics THE MEDAL LEADERS

				TOTAL
NORWAY	6	8	5	19
GERMANY	9	2	4	15
NETHER.	6	5	2	13
CANADA	4	5	4	13
AUSTRIA	3	2	4	9
USA	5	1	2	8

HOOPS SCENE

L.A. becomes center of the basketball universe

By Ryan Kartje
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LOS ANGELES » They congregate on sacred Compton blacktop, deep in the heart of South Central, and on sun-drenched, beachside courts, in the shadow of towering palms. They gather at Gladys Park, tucked between concrete walls off skid row and on a mansion’s hidden hardwood

INSIDE
Get all the details on the NBA All-Star game. SPORTS

in the hills of Bel-Air. They are transients and locals, old and young, black and white, amateurs and NBA stars, homeless and Hollywood elite. But amid the near-infinite sprawl of Los Angeles, a bouncing ball binds them.

Many have tried to distill Los

Angeles into sweeping generalizations, only to fall miserably short of capturing its essence. The culture of basketball here is no easier to define than the city itself. It is both exclusive and inclusive, gritty and flamboyant, a product of the streets and also the hallowed hardwood of its hoops institutions.

“Basketball is a lifestyle to us, man,” says Baron Davis, a Comp-

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